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2010 Draft 303(d) List of impaired waters
Consolidated Assessment Listing Methodology

Janet Pitman

Rules Development Branch

Office of Legal Counsel HCLC-LL

IDEM

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FEB 23 2010

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF LAND QUALITY

From:

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Box 402

Feb 23, 2010

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2010 Draft 303 (d) List of Impaired Waters
Consolidated Assessment & Listings Methodology

PO Box 102
Chesterton Ind 46304
Feb 22, 2010

Dear Sir,

The following are my comments to the 2010 draft of Impaired Waters
I am concerned of waters containing E. coli but none with Fecal Coliform
Exhibits A, B, & C, enclosed, indicates by passes from several local
wastewater treatment plants.

Every time it rains these facilities by pass into a local receiving
stream. When this occurs the stream rises from its banks and
floods surrounding low lands. When the water recedes neighboring
home owners complain of feces remaining on the low lands.

This water flows into Lake Michigan as indicated in the
Avery Cores photo in the Gary Post Tribune of Feb 22, 2008.

As shown in Exhibits A, B, & C The Little Calumet River and
others should indicate fecal coliform pollution present.

Salt Creek is another stream with many small package
treatment plants with problems and by passes.

Svenson-Tompert regulated drain, a tributary of Salt
Creek, accepts the waste water from Burns Harbor Estates. In previous
years the facility bypassed for an extensive period of time until
the Region V EPA intervened. Many water tests were taken
by citizens which indicated high pollution.

At a county ditch assessment hearing for Svenson-Tompert Drain
the question was submitted as to whom would pay for
the disposal of the polluted spoils of the cleaning.

The County Board replied they had nothing to do with pollution.

This question moved to judicial review. The court refused to
require that the test be included in the court records. Finally
Appellate and Supreme all concurred.

J. J. Schradin

Exhibit A
Chesterfield Tribune 2/20/10

Another sewer rate hike on horizon?

By KEVIN NEVERS

Seems like just a year ago a 14-percent sanitary sewer rate hike went into effect in the Town of Chesterfield.

Actually, it was just a year ago.

Which means that the time has come for another biennial rate study.

At the Utility Service Board's meeting Monday night, President Larry Brandt said that he does not know at this point what conclusion the upcoming rate study will reach.

But he can guess. "We need to get locked and loaded for that battle when it comes," Brandt said. "Because the cost of things is not going down. I'm expecting the study will show the need for another increase."

By consensus the Service Board instructed Interim Superintendent Mark O'Dell to ask contracted rate consultant H.J. Umbaugh & Associates to begin that study.

In related news, the Service Board took receipt from O'Dell of the 2009 annual report.

•The Utility under-performed the total projected revenue of \$3,546,000 by \$123,694 or 3.48 percent.

•But it out-performed the total projected commercial sales of \$2,800,000 by \$169,138 or 6.04 percent. "So there was more growth in town than expected," Brandt noted.

•The Utility under-performed the total project operating revenues of \$2,480,175 by \$187,071 or 7.54 percent.

•It finished the year with a deficit of \$93,975, compared to a projected surplus of \$2,060. Among the higher than expected line items were sludge removal, which cost \$18,379 or 61.23 percent more than the projected \$30,000; chemical, which cost \$5,019 or 3.4 percent more than the projected \$59,000; and workman's compensation, which cost

\$16,622 or 66.22 percent more than the projected \$10,000.

•In 2009 Chesterfield used 59.50 percent of its allotment at the wastewater treatment plant; Porter, 63.66 percent; the Indian Boundary Conservancy District, 77.60 percent; and the plant as a whole, 60.48 percent of its capacity. Brandt suggested the possibility that the plant may hit 85-percent capacity well ahead of the anticipated 20-year lifetime of the recently completed expansion project.

•In an incredibly wet year—with 42.67 inches of recorded rain—a total of 3,427,336 gallons of sewage were bypassed into the Little Calumet River. "Last March"—with 4.6 inches of rain on top of snow melt—killed us," O'Dell noted. "God, what a bad spring," Brandt said.

•The plant treated a total of 1,015,415,000 gallons last year, compared to 1,030,034,000 in 2008, an increase of 1.43 percent.

Write-Offs

In other business, the Service Board voted 4-0 to approve the write-off of a total of 70 uncollectable balances totaling \$3,052.52 on sanitary sewer accounts for sold properties.

Member Scot McCord was not in attendance.

Many of those are for deceased individuals, Clerk-Treasurer Gayle Polakowski said. But some are also for builders which have gone out of business.

After a lengthy discussion about the feasibility of trying to collect some of the unpaid balances, members agreed just to write them all off but to do a better job collecting in the future. In particular, they discussed the possibility of asking the Town Council to amend Town Code to allow the Building Commissioner

(Continued on the Back Page)

March 2009

Flood Report

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a certain amount of ground infiltra-
tion in the Indian Boundary
Conservancy District, which sends
its liquid wastes to the wastewater
treatment plant but retains solids in
septic tanks.

But Yagelaki admitted that he's
only guessing at this point. In order
to get a better handle on infiltration
the Utility will need to acquire some
additional meters.

Well, then acquire the meters,
Brandt said. Do you need an extra
employee to collect and read the
data? If so, you'd better hire some-
one. "We need to be much more
aggressive about finding out where
the problems are."

Springdale Allocation

How seriously is Brandt taking
the infiltration issue? This seriously:
at the Utility Service Board's meet-
ing he refused to vote in favor of a
motion granting an allocation at the
wastewater treatment plant to the
Springdale planned unit develop-
ment in Crocker, because the plans
for that project do not include a
pipe-to-pipe connection of sump
pumps to the stormwater system.
Members did vote 3-1 to grant that
allocation, however, a standard one
of 310 gallons per day (gpd) per res-
idence or a total of 29,140 (gpd).

Attorney Greg Babcock, repre-
senting land owner Larry Wright
and developer Don Coker, was
clearly a bit miffed by Brandt's posi-
tion. For one thing, he noted that
even a pipe-to-pipe connection
would not prevent a homeowner
from taking a hacksaw to the PVC,
installing a 90-degree elbow, and
illegally running the sump pump to
a sanitary sewer. For another thing,
Babcock did not altogether appreci-
ate Brandt's implication that the res-
idents of Springdale are going to be
cheaters.

But Brandt was firm. "I'm going
to oppose any single person coming
here for sanitary sewer unless they
have a plan for preventing stormwa-
ter from getting into the sanitary

sewer."

Other Highlights from the Flood

During the Utility Service
Board's meeting, O'Dell made a
point of noting that, as regrettable as
it is that Chesterton's wastewater
treatment plant was forced to bypass
during the storm, it bypassed very
little compared to five other
unnamed plants in Northwest
Indiana. One—with an emergency
storage tank—bypassed 500,000
gallons; another, 14 million gallons;
a third, 13 million gallons; a fourth,
77 million gallons; and one other,
123 million gallons.

For his part Schnadenberg told
the Stormwater Management Board
that three drainage projects complet-
ed last year—one on 10th Street and
two on 20th Street—all proved their
worth on Jan. 7-8. "They worked
well," he said. "We had no com-
plaints."

Schnadenberg did ask the
Stormwater Management Board's
authority to purchase a new three-
inch pump and hose, after it became
apparent during the storm that the
Street Department's 20-year-old
pump had reached the end of its life.
Members voted 3-0 to authorize an
expenditure not to exceed \$3,000.

Members of the Utility Service
Board were unanimous in praising
crews for their fine work during the
storm and in particular for the logis-
tical skill evinced by Yagelaki and
O'Dell in organizing the response.

2007 In Review

The Stormwater Utility finished
2007 with a surplus of \$134,969.

Organization

Members voted 3-0 to re-elect
Brandt to the presidency and
Thomas Kopko to the vice-presiden-
cy. They then voted 3-0 to change
the date of their next meeting, from
6:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18, to 6:15
p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19. That Monday
is a federal holiday, Presidents Day.

Exhibit B

Chesterton Tribune 2008

Utility to Little League: Storm water

1 and cancel Fall Ball. That, as it happens, simply won't be necessary. "When's the last time you knew us to do anything fast?" President Larry Brandt joked.

In fact the process is going to move a good bit slower than anyone had anticipated, Yagelski said. Originally the Utility's plan was to be submitted this summer and to be approved from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) slated for September. But because that plan must incorporate accurate flow numbers from the Town of Porter's sanitary sewer system, and because Porter does not at the moment have anything like accurate numbers, IDEM is going to give Porter time to compile them. So the original deadline has been shelved and instead the Utility will be negotiating an agreement with an administrative law judge which will stipulate a time line and construction schedule. "It's going to be years before this gets going," Yagelski said.

"We don't want people in town to think we're going to throw Little Leaguers under the bus," Brandt

Whereas, relation the Chesteron Utility ultimately implements to eliminate the release of sewage into the Little Calumet River, State Park Little League (SPLL) will have no portion of its 2007 season. Or of its 2008 season. Or of its 2009 season.

Indeed, it could be as many as 15 years before the Utility finally breaks ground. "It's going to be years before this gets going," Superintendent Steve Yagelski noted at Monday's meeting of the Utility Service Board.

Or as Member Scot McCord told SPLL Vice-president Audra Peterson, "Your kids are going to be out of Little League by then. And my grandkids."

Peterson, saying that the "general public has misconstrued headlines," had asked the Service Board for some kind of time line for the construction of a storage tank which could potentially render the SPLL softball field unusable. She also expressed SPLL's willingness to work with the Utility, for instance to complete next year's season by July

said. "We'll work something out." Even should the Utility have to build a storage tank, Yagelski observed, it will attempt to do so wholly on the side of the outfield fence. SPLL is likely to lose parking, which like the deep left and left-center fields of the field encroach on Utility property, but it's entirely possible that the field itself may be preserved intact, he said.

"I firmly believe you're doing everything you can," Peterson replied.

One other person addressed the Service Board on the subject of sewage bypasses into the Little Calumet River, Paul Peterson, who told members that he recalls a time when both Porter and Chesteron simply dumped their untreated raw sewage directly into its waters. A boy wasn't supposed to swim in the river in those days and God forbid anyone should have eaten a fish caught in it, Peterson remembered. His point: The problem of sewage bypasses need to be fixed and a holding tank needs to be built because the situation "is just intolerable."

"I understand the concerns of State Park Little League," Peterson added, "but this is much more important than any Little League field."

Risk and Phases

The Service Board voted 4-0 to approve a total expenditure of \$7.776 for the purchase of four two-horsepower pumps for the Westchester South and 21st Street and Union Ave. lift stations. Member John Schaudenberg was not in attendance.

The Service Board expressed its unhappiness with the failure of an ultra-violet disinfection module whose repair will cost \$11,060. As Member Andy Michel remarked, it's only a few years old. "It just feels like we got lousy," he said.

The Service Board voted 4-0 to authorize appropriate staffers to attend a seminar in St. Louis, Mo., in May, sponsored by the Water Environment Federation, on fat, oil, and grease management training.

In March Chesteron used 58.82 percent of its 3,836,000 gallon per day (gpd) allotment of the waste-

Sewage plant releases 1.6 million gallons into river

The Chesteron wastewater treatment plant released 1,651,600 gallons into the Little Calumet River on Wednesday in a little less than two hours.

Chief Operator Dick Condon told the Chesteron Tribune today that the bypass began at 7:05 a.m. and ended at 8:45 a.m. "That's with people pushing everything they could through the plant," he said. "It shows how hard people were working. They were able to end the bypass after an hour and 45 minutes."

Between 8 a.m. Tuesday and 8

were recorded at the plant. Another .76 inches fell in the 24 hours between 8 a.m. Wednesday and a.m. today but no bypass occurred during that period.

Condon noted that the real problem was not necessarily the amount of rain but the very short period which it fell.

Bypasses—or combined sewer overflows (CSOs)—occur when heavy rain falls after the flow of wastewater from surrounding communities and not just Chesteron has overwhelmed the system.

Brandt concurred. "He can away very happy about the he's done with the Utility," he said. "I had have a lot to look forward to."

"The secret to staying Michael ventured, "is having fun to get up in the morning. thing that keeps you going day. Otherwise you won't be going."

water treatment plant, Porter, percent of its 683,000 gpd allotment. The Indian River Conservation District, 98.95 percent of its \$1,000 gpd allotment; at plant as a whole, 61.96 percent capacity. Chesteron did not have last month; Porter bypassed 23 gallons. In March the Utility had a deficit of \$91,002 and year-to-date a deficit of \$634.

Last Thoughts

The Service Board offered its mechanic Keith Peterson its retirement after 20 years of service. "Keith has always been one first to step in and help out someone needed a hand," Mc said.